

THE DRIVER FAMILY IN EUROPE

1066 - 1900

Transcribed from the book

Times and Generations of the Driver Family

By

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Published 1889

GENEALOGY OF THE DRIVER FAMILY

THE DRIVER FAMILY IN EUROPE.

THE first mention of the name of **Driver** is found in the “Hundred Rolls” of England, compiled in the reign of **Edward I.**, which is a record of those who owned lands there in the time of the Conqueror, for which lands some paid rent, some paid sheep, some paid hens, and some paid service as a soldier.

These rolls, begun on Oct. 11, 1274, are written in antique abbreviated Norman-French Latin. The translation of those portions belonging to this family have been rendered by **Dr. Stephen William Driver**, as found in **Book II. of the Rolls**, p. 426, and are as follows:—

“**Alice le Driveress** holds one messuage [house-lot and adjoining lands], which contains one rod and fifty acres of land, and returns each year seven pence [tax] during the seventh year of **Edw. I** reign [1279].”

There is some doubt about the number of acres in the above account expressed in the original text by “di,”—*dimidium* meaning in some places, in some books, like the Domesday, fifty acres; and in other places, and in other books, one half acre. The heading of the division where this account appears, reads:—

“Inquisitions taken on behalf of our Lord the King in the county of Cambridge in the seventh year of the reign of **King Edward First**.

“**Gunilda Driver** holds twenty-three acres of farming land and one half acre of meadow; she pays for the farm of the ville [small settlement] *15sh. 7d.* [that is the right to make what she can in collecting the revenues due the king]—*Hundred Rolls*, p. 44.

“Parish of Godesford.—The Prior of Okeburn holds the settlement of Okeburn by gift of **Allen Driver**, who gave it to them [the Prior and Monks of Okeburn] in free alms [a form of tenure under which the Church held most of its lands], and it is worth £10 per year. The Prior has both the franchise and the view of frankpledge, as appears by charter of our Lord the King.”—*Ibid.*, p. 596

The next mention found of the name appears in the “[Parliamentary Writs](#),” thus:--

“[John Le Driver](#), Manucaptor of [Hugo Wake](#), Knight of the shire returned for Northampton, 1311.”

And again:--

“[Richard Le Driver](#) pressed to serve as a foot-solider in Gascony, 1311. Deserts, etc. The Sherrif of the County of Essex is commanded to take him into custody. Writ tested at Westminster, July 13, 1311.”

And again:--

“[Robert Le Driver](#), manucaptor of [Thomas Burgess](#), returned for Dorchester, 34 [Edw. I.](#) (1316).”

A “manucaptor,” according to an ancient work called “[The Interpreter, or Booke containing the Signification on Words](#),” by [John Covell](#), London, 1607,—

“From mainprise, signifieth, in our common lawe, the taking or receiving a man into friendly custody that otherwise is or might bee committed to the mercie of the prison, upon securitie given for his forth coming at a day assigned.”

Hence a person empowered to take bail and capture a person who forfeits it.

Gascony, an old province in the South of France, came into possession of the dukes of Guienne in 1054, with which province its history was from that time identified. Guienne, called also Aquitania, included Gascony. In 1152 it came into the possession of England, but in 1272 it was reconquered by the French; but at the peace of 1303 it was again ceded to the English, with whom it remained till 1451. Hence the need of pressing men to serve as foot-soldiers.

The prefix to surnames of De and Le was brought into use by the early Norman's, who assisted in the conquest of England, who on returning to Normandy gave their awarded lands to their sons to go over and settle on them. Younger sons, hoping to find in them an elder brother's portion, eagerly took their new possessions, using their father's name, taken by then from either the territory from whence they came, or from some pursuit or occupation, — De for the territory, and Le for the occupation. These prefixes were not discarded till about the reign of [Henry IV.](#), 1422, when the names were left as now.

The name of [Driver](#) appears in the [History of Berkeley Hundred](#), Vol. III. P. 63, Gloucester, England, thus:—

“Bradston lands, now **Dryvers**, late **Thomas Lord Wentworth**; by deed **Thomas** son of **Thomas**, late **Lord Berkeley**, granted in 2 **Edward III.** (1329), to **Thomas de Bradston** and **Isabel** his wife, and to his heirs, all his mesne, with all lands and pastures thereto belonging which **Isabel de Wike** sometimes held in Arlingham, to be held of the chief Lord by the services accustomed, which by the record of **Rotulus Cloasarum**, 43 **Edw. III.** (1370), Mem’ 6 are there said to be a third part of the manor of Arlingham. And these are now the inheritance of **John Driver**, son of **Gyles Dryver**, second son of **Robert Dryver**, and which the said **John** of late purchased of his cozen **Gyles Dryver**, son and heir of **Thomas Dryver**, eldest son of the said **Robert Dryver**, who purchased the same of —, but not held to contain, as much by as much as the said record of 43 **Edw. III.** doth make them. . . . In this Parish of Arlingham are divers lands and tenements commonly called Wall’s lands, formerly owned by **William Wall**, whose son left them to **Walter Wall**, who died 24th of **Henry VIII** (1533), who left them to **Richard Wall**, who died 2d of **Edw. VI.**; holden of this **Lord Berkeley** by suit to his Hundred Court of Berkeley for three weeks to three weeks, and are now the several inheritances of **John Driver**, by his wife, after 33d. **Elizabeth** (1571), and twenty-two other persons. These retain the name of Wall’s lands, though now in the hands of several freeholders.”—**Berkeley Hundred**, Vol. III. P. 64.

“Wike, or Wyke, consisted of two parishes united, which, from the names of the several possessors, were called Wyke-Dyve and Wyke-Hamon. By the inquisition taken in the reign of **Henry III.** (1216), **William de Dyve**, son of **Gay** or **Wido de Dyve**, co. Oxon, 1204, was found to die seized of the Manor of Wike, which was held of the Earl of Warwick by the service of one Knight’s fee. His successor was **John de Dyve**, his son who was slain at Evesham, co. Wore., in 1265, whose wife was **Isabel de Wike**. In the 9th year of **Edw. I.** (1281), **Henry de Dyve** was found to have held it of the King in capite: and in the eleventh year of the same reign, the Crown presented to the rectory by reason of the minority of **John**, the son of the said **Henry de Wike-Dyve**. In the ninth year of **Edw. II.** (1316), **Henry de Dyve** was certified to be Lord of the Manor, and died seized of it in the 5th. of **Edw. III.** (1332). By a fine levied in the 16th of **Edw. III.** (1343), the reversion of this Manor after the decease of **Martha**, the widow of **Henry de Dyve**, who then held it in dower, was conveyed to **John de Dyve**, the son and heir of the said **Henry de Dyve**, for the term of his life, with remainder to **Sir John de Leukenore**, for the term of his life, with remainder to **Henry de Dyve**, the son and heir of the said **John de Dyve**, and **Elizabeth** his wife the daughter of the said **Sir John de Leukenore**, and their heirs.”—**Bridges**, *History of Northamptonshire*, Vol. I. P. 329.

“Pursuant to this settlement, after the said **Martha**, **John de Dyve**, and **Sir John de Leukenore**, this manor descended to **Henry de Dyve** and **Elizabeth** his wife, who remained possessed of it till the said **Henry** made a release of it to **Roger Mortimer**, Earl of March, and **Sir Ralph Spigurnel**, for the turn of their lives, with remainder to the heirs of the said **Roger**.”—*Ibid.* vol. I. P. 329.

“In this parish of Arlingham, Gloucester co., also were **Drivers** lands and

tenements dedicated to the services of the blessed virgin Mary, to whom also the Parish church was dedicated; which lands were called Chantry lands, which in the time of **King Henry IV.** Were under the disposing and letting of those who had charge of the mass service of the blessed Virgin Mary of Arlingham.

“The house the priest then before dwelt in and after was and yet is called our Ladies Priests house.”

“And however these lands were conceived not to be given to the Crowne by the statue of Chantries made in the first year of **King Edward VI.**, yet by an Inquisition found in the 13th. Year of **Queene Elizabeth** she was by virtue of this act instituted unto them; and accordingly in the 14th. Year of her reign granted them to **Pereival Gonstan** in fee; and from him they came to **Robert Dryver** and others. Howbeit those Patents and grants through defect therein being made void, the same were anew granted by the said Queene in the 29th. Of her reign to **Sir Francis Walsingham** and **Francis Mills** and their heirs, from whom the same are now in the hands of divers persons.”—*History of Berkeley*, Vol. III. pp. 68, 69.

“But in Hillary term before next after the return of the said Inquisition his Majesties attorney general exhibited an Information of Intrusion against the said **Geo. Lord Berkeley**, **Elizabeth Longe**, widowe, myself, and **John Dryver** my tenant, to all said grounds for intruding thereunto and keeping the possession thereof from king from the last of April 1st. of **Queen Caroline**, to this term of exhibiting this information (about 230 acers), 14th. of **Edward II.** **S. de Drieby** was given custody of manor and castle of Berkeley and ten other manors.”—*Ibid.*

In the **Great Roll of the Pipe**,” which was an account of the returns of the king exchequer from the sheriff of counties, officers and crown debtors, in the 31st year of **Henry I.** (1131), is to be found that.—

“**Baldewin de Driebi** renders an account of twenty-seven marks of silver, and that he is his own charge **Radolfus**, son of **Symon de Driebi**, as long as he can be a soldier, with all his land. He paid into the exchequer five marks of silver. He owes twenty-seven and fifteen marks of silver.”

In the “**Liber Feodorum in curia Seaccarij**” (exchequer) is the following, contributed by **Dr. Stephen W. Driver**, —

“From Testa de Neville were accounts rendered to exchequer about close of **Edward II.**’s reign (1307), and beginning of **Edw. III.** (1327.) Bedford and Buckingham counties Miles Nerunt and **Lucas de Kaynes** render an account of the fee (or feof) of **Henry Deyrel** of the honor of Gifford (or of the great lands or estates granted as honor to Gifford). And of two marks from one fee of **William**, son of **Reginald** and **Elye (Elizabeth?) Dryver** of the same honor.”

“The same Prior claims for himself one acre of land to farm the fee from **Hugo Dive**, paying to the same 100 shillings per annum, which is of the

barony of de Keine, which he holds from the gift of the king in *capite*, they know not by what warrant. The Prior was **Osbtus Gifford**, prior Burinesta, and **Henry Dive**. **Gifford** and **Henry Dive** they hold by service of Bread the forgoing hearth-right—They know not by what purpose.”

According to Baker, in his “**History of Northamptonshire**,” Vol. I. P. 82,—

“In the 17th. Year of the reign of **John** (1215), a precept was directed to the sheriff to deliver the lands of the late William Dive, of ‘Branton’ (same as Branpton, written Brantone in Domesday), to the custody of Robert Nevill; and another the same year describing them as the lands of **Henry Dive**, — perhaps a minor, as they were granted to be held only during pleasure. This **Henry Dyve**, lord of both Bramptons, and of Oxendon, and other manors in Gloucestershire, unfortunately killed a servant of **Sir Robert Treaut**, or **Tryan**, the king’s chamberlain, for which offence his body and land were consigned to the mercy of **Sir Robert**, who retained the whole of his estate except the molety of Little or Chapel Brampton, which contained 1,260 acres, where he afterwards resided, and in 1240 he is certified to hold a one half fee in Brampton Parva, and of which place his descendants were usually designated till they acquired Harleston and Quinton, between which places they divided their residence, but at length deserted this county on obtaining Bromham, in Bedfordshire, with the heiress of **Wylde**.”

According to Bridges, in his “**History of Northhampshire**,” Vol.I. p. 384,

—
“In the 48th. Of **Edward III.** (1375), **Sir William de Quinton** died jointly seized of the manor of Quinton, co. Northampton, with **Isabell** his wife who survived him.”

By the same records, —

“**Laurence Dyve** was found to be the next heir of **Sir Wm. de Quinton**. In the fifth year of **Henry V.** (1418), **Laurence Dyve** levied a fine of the third part of the manor, by the name of the manor of Netherbury in Quinton, in fee to himself. He became possessed of it in the fourth year of **Henry IV.** (1403.) In the 28th. of **Henry VIII.** (1537), **Sir John Dyve** died seized of the said manor, which he held of the heirs of the Earl of Kent by unknown service. His successor was **William Dyve, Esq.**, his son and heir. This Gentleman died in the year following and left the reversion of this Manor, after the death of **John Dyve**, his younger brother, to **Lewis Dyve**, his son and heir, who became possessed of it in the 37th. Year of the same reign (1546), upon the decease of the said **John**, his uncle.

“In the 5th. of James I (1608), it was in the possession of **Sir John Dyve**, who obtained the same year a grant from the crown for himself his heirs, and assignees, to include certain pasture grounds adjoining to his lands in Quinton which lay within the forest of Salcey, with leave to assart the wood, underwood, &c, growing upon them. This Gent died the following year,

and was succeeded by his son, **Sir Lewis Dyve**. This **Sir Lewis** in the 10th. **Charles I.** (1635) claimed common pasture for himself and tenants of the Manor of Quinton in the forest of Salcey from the first of May yearly to the feast of St. Martin's in November, and pleading prescription, had his claim allowed."—**Bridges, Northamptonshire**, Vol. I. P. 384.

"In the reign of **Henry II.** (1216), **Henry de Dyve** was certified to hold in Little Brampton half a knight's fee of **Simon de Montfort**, of the honor of Leicester. On the marriage of **Robert Dyve**, his second son, with **Avilis de Welton** (she descended from **Allelm**, the son of **Rory**, who came to England with the Conqueror, and whose posterity enjoyed the Lordship of Welton, Northamptonshire. **Allelm**'s son was **Adam de Welton**, name taken from his possessions; her parents were **Roger de Welton** and first wife **Elizabeth de Noers**."—*Ibid.*, p. 96. He settled them, in fee tail, a moiety of all his lands and tenements here, reserving to himself the capital messuage in which he resided near the chapel. The other moiety was inherited by **Ralph de Dyve**, his eldest son; on his decease s. p. it devolved to this said brother **Robert**.

In the 3d. of **Edward III.** (1330), **Ralph**, the son of **Richard le Dyve**, released to **Sir Thomas de Bucton, Kt.**, his heirs and assigns, all his right in those lands, tenements, rents, and service in Little Brampton, which on the death of **Ralph** his uncle descended to **Robert le Dyve**, brother and heir of the aforesaid **Ralph**, and which **John de Buxton**, grandfather to **Sir de Bucton**, had purchased of the said **Robert le Dyve**. In the 20th. Of **Edw. III.** (1347).

"**Thomas de Bokton** and **Henry Dyve** accounted for half a fee in Brampton of the honour of Leicester. In the 29th of **Henry VIII.** (1538), **Sir John Dive, Kt.**, died seized of it, and was succeeded by **William Dive**, his son and heir, which William dying the year afterwards, left it to **Lewis Dive**, his son and successor, a minor of twenty years." — *Ibid.*, p. 492.

"Brampton at the Domesday survey was one of the manors retained by the Earl of Moreton in his own possession, and contained four hides. [A hide was considered by some to contain one hundred acres, by others to be as much as could be ploughed by on plough in a year].

"On the confiscation of the Moreton estate both the Bramptons (great and small) were included in that portion which subsequently held of the honor of Leicester; subordinate to which they formed part of **Hugh Dyve's** barony of East Haddon." — **Baker, History of Northamptonshire**, Vol. I. P. 82.

"East Haddon, according to Domesday folio 223, was granted out within a century of the Norman Conquest to the family of **Dyve**, who were considerable proprietors in the county and Nottinghamshire. In the inquisitions of knight's fees (1210), **Hugh Dyve** was certified to hold seven fees and a half in Northamptonshire of the honor of Leicester. He died in the lifetime of his mother, leaving three daughters and co-heiresses, — **Matilda**, wife of **Sir Saber Saint Andrew**; **Alice**, wife of **Sir Richard Micegros**; and **Ascelin**, wife of **Sir Simon de Mucegros**, — who with their husbands in 1227 had livery of the lands which had been assigned in dower to their grandmother." — *Ibid.*, p. 160.

"The great-grandson of **Henry Dyve**, of Brampton, of the time of **John** and **Henry III.**, was **John Dyve**, who died in 1331; he married, Nov. 20, 1308

Alice, the heir and daughter of Henry Bray, of Harleston. In the 24th. Of Edw. I. (1296). Ralph Dive and Roger St. Andrew and Thomas de Bray were certified to hold the township of East Haddon.

"The church here dedicated to the Virgin Mary was given to Sulby Abbey by William, the son of Hugh de Dyve, and confirmed to it by King Edw. II." — Bridges, Vol. I. P. 504.

"Harleston manor was possessed by the family of Andrewe, which was held by a family named Lumley before the Andrewes owned it, to whom the Lumleys sold it. Robert Lumley who lived in the 12th. Of Henry VI. (1432), son of Richard and Cecilie (Holdenby) Lumley, married Joane, daughter of Edmund Dive; but a second manor in Harleston and East-Haddon, Sir John Dive, sheriff 12th. of Henry VII. And 2d. of Henry VIII., died seized in the 29th. year of Henry VIII. (1538).

"By the inquisition taken on his death, he was certified to have held it of the Marquis of Dorset by fealty only.

"He was succeeded by William Dyve, Esq., his son and heir, who married Ann, daughter and heir of Lewis Aprice.

"This William, dying the next year, left it to Lewis Dive, his son, a minor twenty years old, who died in 1592. He married Mary, daughter of Sir Walter Strickland, and had Sir John Dyve, who died in 1607, who married second Beatrice, daughter of Charles Walcot, esq. She died in 1658, having married second John Digby, first earl of Bristol. Sir John Dyve had issue Sir Lewis Dyve, born 1595, who was colonel of the 11th. Regiment in King Charles's army. Heath says that Sir Lewis Dyve himself had command of the expedition, Oct., 1643, when Charles I. Sent Prince Rupert with a strong party of horse and foot into Bedfordshire, and took Bedford; that Sir Lewis had 2,000 or 3,000 horse. He came first to Amptill, then to Bedford, which town he entered, and took Sir John Norris and other parliamentary officers prisoners. From thence he went to Sir Samuel Luke's house and destroyed it. . . . He sold Harleston and East Haddon by parced in 1652; he sold Quinton in the time of Charles I.; he died in 1669. He had a son John, who died young in 1601; buried at Bromham."—Baker's *Northamptonshire*, Vol. I. P. 82.

"Sir Lewis Dyve reserved for his own use in Harleston his manor, or mansion-house, built of square stone, with offices, etc, which in 1652 was in the occupation of John Hesilrigge, esq. Sir Lewis being a zealous royalist, his estates were seized by the parliament for delinquency in September of that year. Dyve's heath, water grist mill, and a considerable estate were sold by the trustees for the sale of sequestered lands for 2,893£ 7s. 3d. to John Hesilridgge, esq., and William Denton, of Blisworth; and in December, 1658, the small remant of Sir Lewis's estate here was conveyed in fee by the trustees for 44£. 14s. 9d. to Arthur Haselrich, son of the above John Hesilrigge." —*Ibid.*, p. 169.

"The Dyves of Wyke-Dyve were of one common origin with Henry Dyve, the mesne lord of Brampton, and Hugh Dyve, who claimed against Henry Dyve in 1202 the fendal service of enclosing a certain hay upon the vallum of the king's castle of Pevensy in Sussex, being the alleged tenure

appertaining to a knight's fee, which he holds of him in Brampton in the county of Northampton. **Henry** denied that his fee was chargeable with the service, and put himself on the great assize. A day was assigned, and in the following year **Hugh** renewed his claim, and offered to prove his allegation by one **Ralph**, the associate of **Henry** in the service. **Henry** protested against any other than the ordinary service of a knight's fee, which he acknowledged to be due from him to the said **Hugh**, and no ulterior proceeding were recorded." —**Baker**, Vol. I. P. 82

"**Henry Dyve** by charter s. d. gave a virgate of land in Brampton to the priory of St. Andrew of Brampton, subject to the yearly rent of 3s. 6d. and 8 hens to **William de Huntydon**; and afterwards a second virgate of his demesne. The mansion of the **Dyves** is believed to have been contiguous to the site of the chapel in a close which still retains the name of Hall-Close. A small modern seat, late the property and residence of **Mr. Pearce**, which is in the occupation of **William Rose-Rose. Esq.**, now stands on the field. The village is four miles from Northampton on the turnpike-road to Leicester through Welford. By the census of 1801, it contained thirty-one houses and one hundred and seventy inhabitants." —**Bridges**, Vol. II. P. 403.

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| "Patroni | Incumb. et temp. Institut. |
| John de Montecatuto | |
| Prior Hosp. St. John Jerus. | Dom. Robt. Dryver |
| Laur. Saunders | Cap. Fed. 20. 1533. |
| Principal landowner, or tenants in <i>capite</i> . | |

In the 12th. of **Henry III.** (1228), **John de Montacute** gave Haryngton, or Harington, and in later records called Hetheryngton, to the knights hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem." —*Ibid.*, Vol. II.p.34

"**Robert Dryver**, prior at Haryngton. co. Northampton. It is worth is benefits accruing from the rectory there, leased to farm to **Simon Clypsan** as per deed. £16 : 00 : 00 per year." —*Ibid.*

"From that the portion to the archdeacon and the portion to the archbishop of Northampton was 10s. 07d.; and yet there remains £15 : 09 : 05: and for the tythe 40s. 12d." —*Valor Ecclestoticus*, Vol. IV.

"Robert Dryver, incumbent of Harington, Feb. 20, 1533, at which date he was appointed to the manor, on presentation of whom does not appear. — **Bridges**, Vol. II. p. 34.

"In the 25th. year of **Henry III.** (1241), **Robert de Dive**, then prior, and his tenants in Harington were discharged from service due to the hundred court at Rothwell." — *Ibid.*

"(Harington, a village of Northamptonshire, contained twenty-eight families at date, and was in Rothwell Hundred. Soon after the Conquest the lordship was in the possession of **Roger de Montgomery**, father of **Maud**, wife of **Robert, Earl of Morton**, half-brother to the Conqueror.). [A hundred consists of ten tithings, and every tithing of ten households, subsequently called shires. Hundred also denotes the jury by which the survey of Domesday Book was made.] "They were to give, upon oath, an account of all estates,

down to the slightest ownership, even to a flock of bees, or hens, which they owned,; all of which was set down at length and returned by the sheriff into the exchequer, and from these returns Domesday Book was compiled.” — Lyson.

The abbots and priors, according to Fuller, in his “Worthies,” were considered the Gentry of the Country.

“By inquisition taken in the 24th. of Edward I. (1296), the prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Robert de Dive, was found to hold the township of Hetherington, of the see of Mountague, but of whom and by what service there is no mention. In the 9th. of Edward II. (1316), he was lord of the manor.

“In the 25th. year of Henry III. (1241), Robert de Dive, then prior, and his tenants in Harington were discharged from services due to the hundred Court at Rothwell, later called Hetherington.

“Being summoned by a writ of *quo warranto* in the third year of Edward III. (1330), to show cause why he claimed to have view of frank-pledge twice a year of his tenants of Hetheryngton, he pleaded an immemorial enjoyment.

“Of the tenants of this lordship to the knights hospitallers, the principal appear to have been the family of Saunders, of which family was Edward Saunders, the son of John Saunders, yeoman, who died in the 6th year of Henry VIII. (1515), seized of messuages, lands, and tenements in Harrington, which he held of the prior (Robert de Dive) of St. John of Jerusalem by fealty and a certain annual payment. His successor in this estate was Lawrence Saunders, his second son. Who left them at his death in the 36th. of this reign (1545), to Thomas, his son and heir. By the inquisition then taken he was found to have held them of the crown, as parcel of the late dissolved priory of St. John of Jerusalem. In the 33d. of Henry VIII. (1542), the manor of Hetherington, with other estates formerly belonging to the priory of St. John’s, had been given to Francis Pygot in exchange for lands in other counties.” —Bridges, *Northamptonshire*, Vol. II. P. 33.

“Henry Dyve, previously to the forfeiture of his estates having accidentally killed a servant of Sir Robert Treaut [as before mentioned], gave a one fourth part of Great Brampton, with the advowson of the church, to Pouncey Picot, in fee marriage with his daughter, In 1275 the jurors of the hundred presented that Peter Picot, grandson of Pouncey, had exercised the privileges of fee warren in Magne Brampton for twenty-four years past, but they knew not on what authority.” —*Ibid*.

“Chapel Brampton contained 1,260 acres.” —*Ibid*.

“William Dryve, Cl. Jan 9, 1545, of Bowdon-Parva, Rothwell Hundred. The hundred of Rothwell is bounded on the east and north by Huxlow and Corby hundreds, with the River Welland, which separates it from Leicestershire.” —*Ibid*.

“It appears by inquisition taken in the third year of Edward III. (1330) that Hugh de Dive of Goteham, in Nottinghamsire, had lands in Haldeby, Ravensthorp, Pisseford, Biketon and Brampton, which in the reign of Henry III, (1216) were held of Simon Montford, Earl of Leicester. On his decease they descended to his three daughters and co-heirs.

“Patroni

Rob. de Diva

Prior & Frat. Hosp. Jerusal.

That is patron of Ravensthorp, Newbottle Hundred, Northamptonshire. This lordship was next Haddon; Its widest extent is about 2 and ½ miles, contained 58 houses, and 12 erected for the poor.”—**Bridges**, *Northamptonshire*, Vol. I. P. 535

“At Braybroke (in Domesday, Bradebroc, Badebroe, and Balebroe), Rothwell Hundred, a lordship of 4,000 acres, under the head of *Incumb. et temp. Institut.* Is found, **William Driver**, occur Rect. 1561, refig, 23 Jan. 1571.” —**Bridges**, *Northamptonshire*, Vol. II. P. 13.

“The church at Guilsborough, north of Haddon, with the chancel, was 90ft. in length, and 49 ft. 7 in. in breadth, and was given, with its appurtenances, by **William de Dive** to the knights hospitallers of Jerusalem, by whom, it was appropriated to the priory. The date on its side is 1618.

“Hollowell, a hamlet of nineteen houses in the parish of Guilsborough, at the time of the Conquerors’ Survey belonged to several owners. In the reign of **Henry II**, (1154) the bishop of Lincoln was possessed of an hide and one third part of an hide here which **Robert de Dyve** held of him.” — *Ibid.*, Vol. I. pp. 566, 569.

“A little distance from Hollowell was Northoft, part of which lordship in the reign of **Henry II**. (1154) was held by the family of **Dive**, and was given by **Hugh de Dive** to the knights hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. In the twelfth year of **King John** a fine was levied of a third part of ten marks rent in Northoft, between **Agnes**, relict of said **Hugh de Dive**, demandant, and the prior of the hospital of Jerusalem, desoreiant, claimed by said **Agnes** as part of her dower, to the use of the said prior and his successor.” —*Ibid.*, p. 570.

“In the 20th. of **Edward III**. (1347), **Agnes Dyve** and **Robert de Holewell** accounted for half a knight’s fee held in Holowell, Guilsborough Hundred, of bishop Lincoln. From henceforward no mention occurs of this lordship of Hollowell till the 3d. year of **Edward IV**. (1464), when by inquisition then taken, **Eustance Burneby** was found to die seized of three tosts, and one virgate of land which he held in soeage of **Thomas Dive** of Holewell.” —*Ibid.*, p. 569.

“The abbey of Sulby was a convent of the premonstratensian order, founded about the year 1135. **William de Dyve** gave the abbey the church in East Haddon (year not given), which formed part of its revenue. It seemed the prevailing fashion of that time to present this abbey with similar donations. The revenues from such amounted in 1535 to 305£ 8s. 5d. This Abbey in 1538, with its revenues and possessions, was surrendered; and the surrender by act of parliament, which passed the year following, confirmed to the King, and continued to the crown in the tenth and twelfth years of Queen Elizabeth.” —*Ibid.*, P. 598.

“In the reign of **King John** (1199), **Leodegarius de Diva** held one knight’s fee in Ashby-Legers of the King, as of the fee of Leicester. Ashby-Legers was next Braunston-on-the-West. (Leodegarius was a patron saint to whom the church was dedicated.) —*Ibid.* p. 15.

“By the inquisition taken in 1210, it was found that **Leodegarius**, or **Ledger**

de Dive had one fee in Ashby-Legers in Cranford Manor. He was probably a branch of the **Dyves** of East Haddon; and the supposition is strengthened by certain lands here being in late inquisition returned to be of that barony. In 1215 he was Constable of Knaresborough Castle, of Yorkshire, and a mandate was issued to provide him with £20 in land for his support out of the possessions of the king's enemies. **William de Dive** had this estate in the reign of **Henry III.** (1216), three years, soon after which it passed to another family." — **Baker, Northamptonshire**, Vol. I. P. 246.

"In the 14th year of **Henry II.** (1168), **Henry de Dive** accounted to the King's exchequer for 12£ 3s. 8d., arising from the farm of **Brackley**, Sutton Hundred, Northampton, till such time as the Earl of Leicester should regain his estate, his lands having been seized, he being taken prisoner by the King's forces near St. Edmundsburg, where he was fighting against them with a great body of Fleming with whom he invaded England. After two years his lands were restored to him."—**Bridges**, Vol. I. P. 329.

"In the 20th. of **Henry II.** (1174), the northern borders of Northampton being invaded by the Scots, an engagement happened near Alnwick in Northumberland, in which the Scots were routed, and **William** their king made prisoner. From thence he was conducted to **King Henry** at Northampton, where also the Bishop of Durham, **Roger de Mowbray**, and **Earl Ferrers**, with **Anketil Mallore** and **William de Dive**, constables to the Earl of Leicester, surrendered up the several castles which they had held against him.

"The public disturbances being thus composed, and a general tranquillity prevailing thro' the kingdom, **Henry**, with his prisoners, transports himself to Normandy."—*Ibid.*, p. 422.

"The first of the name of **Dive** found in England was **Benselin de Dive**, one of the companions of **William, Duke of Normandy**, in the conquest of England in 1066. His name is the thirty-eighth on the list of **William's** followers, five hundred in all, which list, August, 1862, was affixed to the oldest church in Dives,—a companion record of that of Battle Abbey (see Appendix of this book, where the list, as taken from **Burke's "Vicissitudes of Families,"** is to be found in full).

"Dives is a small town, in the department of Calvados, in Normandy, close to the sea-coast. This town is of high note in French and English history, for it was nigh to it, at the mouth of the Dive, that **William the Conqueror** and his companions in arms met for the subjugation of England. In the eleventh century it was one of the chief ports of the Duchy of Normandy."—**Burke, Vicissitudes of Families.**

Thus it would appear that the family of **Dive**, or **Dyve**, **Dyver**, **Dryve**, and **Dryver**, or **Driver**, took their name from this town of Dives, according to the old way of distinction by the use of words expressing a man's occupation, his place of residence, his possessions, his personal appearance, or his parentage, to do away with

the confusion of the common repetition of **John**, **William**, and **Robert** in one family in the same generation, which occurred in many cases.

Whether all were of one family, is a subject of future inquiry; yet as it has been shown that they are found living at the same time, in the same town, in the same county, this doubt might be waived.

The family of **Dives** of Bromham, co Bedford, Brampton, Harleston, Holwell, Quinton and Wyke, co. Northampton, were arms-bearing, their arms being, —

Gules, a fesse dancette between three escallops ermine. Crest, a wivern's wings, endorsed. Gules, in another account, a wivern with wings,—which arms are to be found on the market-house at Rowell, with ninety others; that of Dives occupying about the central position.

(Gules means red, depicted by perpendicular lines. Dancette means ^^^^^. Escallop means cockle-shell-like figures over the shield. A wyvern means a heraldic animal, whose wings and upper part of body resemble a dragon, the lower part, that of an adder or snake, and stands on feet, like a bird.)

Driver arms were,—

Per pale Gules and Or, a Saltier countercharged. Crest, a heart gules, winged Or; that is, the shield is covered with perpendicular red lines on a gold surface, crossed by the cross of St. Andrew, surmounted by a crest of a red heart with gold wings. This change in the arms could have been occasioned by an intermarriage, and the two families combining arms, or in the purchase of an estate, and with it the request that the arms should be combined, which in several instances can be found recorded in other families, and should occasion no confusion on the possibility of **Dives** and **Dryvers** not being of one common origin. **Matilda Dyve**, as has been given, married **Sir Saber Saint Andrew**, and **Alice Dyve** married **Sir Richard Mickgros**, and **Ascelin Dyve** married **Sir Simon de Mucegros**, who with their husbands in 1227 had livery of the land which had been assigned in dower to their grandmother.

Again, the **Dives** arms is found used thus, —

“The fesse Or, the escallops argent, crest the same; that is, the Fesse is formed by two horizontal lines drawn across the field of the escuteheon, emblematic of the military girdle worn round the body. The Drivers dropped the escallops, raised their lines from a girdle to a cross, and put wings on a red heart instead of the dragon snake. Why? Will ever be the question.”—*Arms found in Baker's Northamptonshire*, Vol. I. P. 82.

“**Hugh Dryver**, corner of Thetford, Norfolk, England, in the reign of **Henry VIII**. (1485). The office was held by patent of the Duke of Lancaster, during life, till this year, when **Henry VII**. As Duke of Lancaster, and lord of the town granted them the privilege that the old mayor should always be corner for the succeeding year, which hath so remained ever since.

“In 1189, **Richard II**. Changed the government from Provost of the town

to a bailiff, coroner, and mayor. The bailiff to be nominated by the King; the coroner to be named by the Lords of the dominion, and the superior to the Mayor till 1373, when **John of Gaunt**, lord of the dominion, obliged the town to make the mayor superior to the coroner, which office was for life till 1490, when **Henry VII**, made the change as above stated. Thetford received its name in the Conqueror's time, —The Ford, meaning the inlet into Norfolk, the city on the Ford or the Ford of the People; it has been a burgh ever since the Romans made it so, its inhabitants being called burghers. In **King Edward's** time this flourishing city became a hundred by itself call Thetford Hundred. It contained 943 burgesses. The king had two thirds of the customs, and the other third belonged to the Earl of East Angles, which was afterwards Cambridgeshire.” — **Blomefield, History of Norfolk**, Vol. II. P. 142.

Norfolk in 1886 is still the ancestral home of the family of the name of **Driver**, some of whom have emigrated to America, settled at Utah, and who, in appearance, features, habits, and temperament, resemble to a marked degree the family of **Driver**, descendants of the settlers of New England, well expressed by one of the Norfolk emigrants now in Ogden, Utah, thus: “Or family are **Drivers** by name and **Drivers** by nature. I never knew one of the family who could be kept down to common labor; the least show, and they are bound to rise. I never knew a beggar named **Driver**, nor one who cared to ask a favor of any one. The women are shrewd, and good workers, —no idle blood in them. Neither men nor women ever accepted any principle advocated, as true without studying well before adopting it, or giving an opinion; and if not at all interested, pass it by without reflection.”

“In 1490, **Hugh Dryver** was mayor of Thetford, Norfolk, England, at which date Thetford was a place of great renown and great antiquity, being a palace of note before the coming of the Romans into Britain.”—**Carter, History of Cambridgeshire**.

“There are forty-two freeholders of Isellam, a large village in the northeast corner of Cambridgeshire, bordering on Sullfolk co. The thirtieth name on the list is **John Diver** [the r omitted]. The freeholders of Whittlesford, a village seven miles southeast of Cambridge, and forty-five miles north of London, in Cambridgeshire, were:,—

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| James Jeffreys, | Robert Story, |
| Leonard Sadler, | John Crouch, |
| Thomas Barker, | John Harwood, |
| Robert Wood, | James Champion, |
| Martin Osborn, | James Driver,* |
| Richard Knights, | Thomas Turner, |
| Robert Adams, | Thomas Banks,” |

Carter, History of Cambridgeshire

These, either by grant, purchase, or inheritance, were entitled to a share in all the common lands.

“In the 4th. Of James I. (1607)., **John Driver**, then **Lord Bailey** of Thetbury (Gloucestershire), was plaintiff against **John Tamar**, defendant,, for carrying away without the lord’s leave the Dowinge, or soil out of the waste ground, called the cheeping “ [or Golgotha of the town], “which **Driver** under the prerogative of is office appropriated to himself wherever **Driver** had composition from the defendant.” — *Calendar Pleadings*. Thus **Driver** sold as a fertilizer all the refuse of the town which had been dumped on the waste ground of that town, which being bailiff he could do very well.

Calendar Pleadings, Vol. III., Case 2. “Plaintiff, **John Seede**, Defendant, **John Driver**. Relief against fraudulent agreement for a lease. Two closes of land in Tedbury held by plaintiff under lease from **Henry Lord Berkley**.”

Calendar Pleadings, Vol. I., 33 Henry VIII (1542). “Plaintiff, **James Dryver**; Defendant, **Margery Hartley**, **John Dryver**, **Edward Walker**; matters in dispute; seizure of cattle on disputed claim of debt, Wynewell, Colne Manor, Lincolnshire, Eng.”

Calendar Pleadings, 7th Elizabeth (1567). “Plaintiff, **Mary Driver**, widow and executor of **John Driver**, deceased; defendant, **John Ireland**; object of suit; Bill of everlasting contract for sale of premises, freehold and copyhold lands in Framingham. Co. Suffolk; agreed to be sold by defendant to plaintiff’s late husband.”

Calendar Pleadings, Book VI., Case 16, 13th Elizabeth (1571). “**Thomas Bennett**, plaintiff; **Charles Cornwallis**, defendant; objects of suit; deeds, evidences, etc., manor of Capella-Hall, in Trimly, or Trimeley, St. Martin, which complainant purchased of **John Dryver** whose widow recovered in C. R. her dowry out of the premises. It is contested that the premises form a part of the Manor of Grymston-Hall, Suffolk. Co.”

Calendar Pleadings, 28th, **Elizabeth** (1586), “Plaintiff **Henry Lord Wentworth**; Defendant, **Andrew Keine**, **Thomas Driver**; matters In dispute; herbage panage [hog feeding] of woods called Bingewood, and Bushie Cattshill, Elmset Manor, Suffolk co., Eng.”

“**Richard Driver**, one of the yeomen of the forest chamber, king’s bailiff, under the charge of Percevall, in the forest of Inglewood for life. [Second part of the patents of the 34th. year of **Edw. III.**,--1361.]

“**William Driver**, rector in 1561 at Braybroke, Rothwell Hundred, Northamptonshire, Eng., a lordship of 4,000 acres. He resigned Jan. 23, 1571.”—*Bridges, History of Northamptonshire*, Vol. II. P. 13

“**William Dryver**, Clericus “[clerk or clergy], “of Bowden Parva, Rothwell Hundred, Northamptonshire, Jan 9, 1545.”—*Ibid.*, vol. II. P. 6. Thus rendered—“**Dom. Will. Dryve**, Cl. 9 Jan., 1545.”¹

Whoever was the head of a religious house held the lands, took care of the bridge, repelled invasions, and prayed for the souls {expressed by in *Puram elemosinam*), and had the service of support of one night (expressed by *firnam timus noctis*).

¹ See page 11.

Clericus, clerk, or men in holy orders had to be examined by the bishop of the respective dioceses within twenty-eight days after presentation by the king or queen, or lord of the manor, after which time if they were not rejected as not qualified, they must be instituted or licensed to the benefice. They had to read and write English and Latin,—a qualification which originally belonged exclusively to them.

No tax-gatherer, or comedian, or slave, or one who performed public penance, or usurer, no legal official of the court, and none who had ever suffered from insanity could become a clericus.

The immunities that clerks enjoyed differed at different times indifferent countries; they consisted mainly in exemption from public burdens and from lay jurisdiction. Clerks were exempt from taxes and excused from fighting. The benefices that they enjoyed were certain ecclesiastical revenues, on condition of discharging certain services prescribed by the canons, or by usage. They implied three things: 1. An obligation to discharge the duties of the office which is altogether spiritual; 2. The right to enjoy the fruits attached to that office, which is the benefice itself; 3. The fruits themselves, which are the temporalities.

By the Lateran Council of 1215, whose authority was recognized by the Church of England, no clerk could hold two benefices with the cure of souls. Dispensations, though, could be obtained from Rome, before the reformation of the Church, to enable the clerk to hold several benefices at the same time. The patronage of some benefices was in private hands, whilst others were at the disposal of the crown, or public bodies.—*Abstract form encyclopaedia Britannica.*

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|---|---|
| “Patroni Tho. Gryffyn, Arm. Dom. Will. Dryve, Cl. | Incumb. & temp. Institut. 9 Jan. 1545” “Incumb. & temp. Institut. |
| Islip, Huxlow Hundred William Dyve, Cl. | 3 Sept. 1427.” |

“**John Dyve, Esq.**, member of Parliament for the co. of Northampton, **Henry VI.** (1422), twice at Westminster.

“**John Dyve, Esq.**, Member of Parliament for co. of Northampton, 33d. & 39th. **Henry VI.** (1455) and (1461)—Sheriff 11. **Henry VII.** [1496]

“**John Dive** of Haddon, sheriff of Northamptonshire, 10th. of **Henry VII.** (1495).”—*Fuller, Worthies.*

“**Sir John Dyve**, sheriff of Northamptonshire, 19th. **Henry VII.** (1504) and 2d. **Henry VIII.** (1511) He married **Isabel.** Dau. And co-heir of **Ralph**

Hastings, third brother of William, baron Hastings, chamberlain to Edward IV.”—Baker, *Northamptonshire*, Vol. I. P. 82

“Lod. Dyve, sheriff of Bedfordshire, 37th. Henry VIII. (1546); also 4th Elizabeth (1562); also 25th. Elizabeth (1583).” – Fuller, *Worthies*.

“John Dive, sheriff of same co. 36th. Elizabeth (1594), also 45th. Elizabeth (1603); also 1st King Jacobus. He is called Knight.

“Parish of Lambert, co. Surrey, July 1, 1571; John Harforde married to Elizabeth Dryver.”—Sommerby, *Researches in England*, Vol. XX. P. 141.

“Sir Robert Driver, of Ipswich, Bart., high Sheriff of Suffolk in 1669.”—*History of Suffolk, by Rev. Alfred Suckling*.

“Nathaniel Driver, sheriff of Bristol, Eng., 1683.—*Ibid*.

“Deerbolts at Earl Stonham, a parish near Beacon Hill, on the road between Ipswich and Eye, England, was the ancient seat of the Driver family; Eye being the border town between the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.”—Camden, *Britannia*, Vol. II.p.169

“Dr. Charles Driver, A. B., Hart Hall, Oxford, England, June 1, 1703.”

“Jeremias Driverus, author of ‘Commentaries on Hippocrates, Galen, and Celsus.’ A professor of medicine in the university at Leoven, was of Brakele, a village in Flanders near Grandmont; died in 1554, aged 52.”

“Anne Driver died at Putney, Eng., Aug. 15, 1780.”

“Jonas Driver, A. B. Christ’s College, Cambridge, Eng., 1822; A. M. in 1825.”

“Sacred to the memory of Henry Driver, Esq., for several years member of the Corporation of Windsor, and one of its magistrates, and mayor of the borough. Died Dec. 5, 1868, aged 66 years.” (Clever Churchyard, England.)

“Rev. Samuel Rolles Driver, Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford, England, and in 1886 canon of Christ Church, Oxford, England. One of the revisers of the Authorized Version of the Bible, completed in 1885.”—London Graphic. The Regius Professorship was founded in 1546 by Henry VIII., with a stipend of 140. In 1630 Charles I. Added to it the Canonry of Christ Church. Rev. Samuel Rolles Driver received: —

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Pusey Elleston Scholar | 1866 |
| Clericus Mod | 1867 |
| Clericus | 1869 |
| Pinnicott Scholar | 1870 |
| Senior Septuagint Prize | 1871 |
| “ Syriac Prize | 1872 |
| Regius Professor | 1882” |

Oxford, Eng., Catalogue of Graduates.

In the offices of sheriff of their county, knights of the shire in Parliament, and canons in the commission of the Church, and as clerks of the same, the name Driver has been traced in Northamptonshire variously spelled, from the time of the invasion of King William to the year 1886.

The “National Biography,” published by the Royal Academy of Belgium, Vol. V., gives the following, written in French, the translation of which is:—

“**Rombant de Dryver**, sculptor, born at Mechlin. The tradition given, and which is somewhat vague, places **Rombant Driver** in the rank of the best artists; he contributed to the execution of the famous church of the abbey of Tangerloo, commenced July 25, 1536, and finished in 1548.

He worked with **N. Clandessens** on the ornaments which decorated the first story of this little monument.

We know that he belonged to an honorable bourgeoisie family of Mechlin.”

Mechlin for many centuries was the religious metropolis of Flanders, the patron saint of which was **Saint Rombant**, who suffered martyrdom June 24, 775.

The “Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie,” Vol. V., makes mention that,—

“**Friedrich Matthias Driver**, born at Vechta, 23 Aug., 1754, died at Emsdetten, 5 Jun, 1809, was Doctor of Law at Munster, and assessor in the ducal superior court at Meppen. A much learned and historical writer at the court. Besides some works upon history, his especial province, he wrote, under the title ‘*Bibliotheca Monasterunsis sive Notitia de scriptoribus Monasterio, Westphalis, 1799.*’ The first dictionary of authors of Munster. It contains useful information concerning more than 350 writers, part of whom were born in Munster, and part have written about it, and extends from the earliest times to the present.”—*Contributed by Emily W. Withey, of Cambridge, Mass.*

Meppen is a city in the duchy of Meppen, in Germany, which duchy joins Holland. The city is on the River Ems.

Five estates await claimants of the name of **Driver** (see Chambers, “Index of next of Kin”).

In London, England, in 1886, about twelve families reside of the name of **Driver**, from whom information would be very acceptable.

There is another family whose name is so similar to that of **Driver**, whose immigrants in this Generation invariably call themselves **Driver**, that for the more perfect understanding of this work it seems necessary to make mention of them. Their name is **Drever**, who did and yet do reside in the Orkney Islands, most of them at the island of Westray, one of the northernmost of the groups.

“**Drever** (Orkney; granted by patent, 1809). Or, on a chev. az. betw. Three griffins’ heads erased gu. As many roses ar. barbed vert. Crest: an eagle rising regard. Holding in the beak a pomegranate, all ppr.”

The Orkneys were conquered in A. D. 860 by Harald Haarfagr, and Norse colonization then commenced.

In the Norse language there is a word *dreva*, meaning “snow,” which transformed into the proper noun **Drever**, could mean snowmen, or men who came for the region of snow, which could establish the claim of those who hold that those of the name of **Drever** were Norsemen.

Those of the name in America are all tall, powerful men, muscular and hardy, and speak with a strong Scotch accent. In no way do they resemble those of the name of **Driver** save in energy, industry, and enterprise; for these, as a class, are short in stature, small of frame, with small feet and hands, and very English in appearance and habits.

Burke in his “**General Armory**” gives **Drever** and **Driver** each arms bearing families; but their coats of arms are quite unlike.